

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). A synthetic antisense oligonucleotide compound & 17 to 50 nucleobases in length comprising at least one modified nucleobase, and targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein said antisense oligonucleotide fully and specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase and inhibits the expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase by at least 10%.

Claims 2-3 (CANCELED).

4 (Previously Amended). The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

5 (Original). The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

6 (Previously Amended). The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

7 (Original). The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

Claim 8 (Canceled) .

9 (Previously Amended) . The compound of claim 1 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

10 (Previously Amended) . The compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

Claim 11 (Canceled) .

12 (Original) . A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13 (Original) . The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

14 (Original) . The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

15 (Previously Amended) . A method of inhibiting the expression of human stearyl-CoA desaturase in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues *in vitro* with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of human stearyl-CoA desaturase is inhibited.

Claims 16-20 (Canceled) .

21 (Previously Added) . The compound of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide is more than 30 nucleobases in length.

22 (New) : The compound of claim 1, wherein said

oligonucleotide is 19 to 50 nucleobases in length.

23 (New): The compound of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide is 20 to 50 nucleobases in length.